



R H O D E I S L A N D MAYORAL ACADEMIES

Minutes of the Meeting Held on September 30, 2009

A meeting of the Board of the Directors was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at the offices of Moses & Afonso, Ltd., 160 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:08 pm.

The following directors were present:

Daniel McKee (Chair)
John Carter
Richard Lynch
Ramon Martinez
Sandy McCulloch
Martin West

Also in attendance were Michael Magee, Daniel Waugh, Drew Allsop, Tehani Collazo, Antonio Afonso, Jr., and Jeremy Chiappetta. Members of the public present were Letitia Carter and Brian Kelly.

Minutes of August 19, 2009

Mr. Martinez (seconded by Mr. Lynch) moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. AYE: Carter, Lynch, Martinez, McCulloch, West. NAY: None.

CEO Report

Mr. Magee reported that Ms. Collazo has been busy building the website, preparing family databases, surveying families, and working toward the creation of a family leadership council. She and Mr. Magee met with Peter Walsh to review corporate giving possibilities by BankRI.

Ms. Collazo is also working on “delegation visits” which take Rhode Island decision and opinion-makers to the very best public schools and networks in New England to demonstrate what can be accomplished here in Rhode Island. The first one of these has been scheduled for October 27. Mr. Magee would like to schedule these visits at least monthly.

Ms. Collazo and Mr. Allsop put together an application for a federal grant to support charter school start-up costs, requesting up to \$1.1 million dollars for 2 schools over 3 years. Grant announcements should be made very soon.

RIMA staff is working with Public Impact on a human capital development strategy to improve teacher and school leader quality in Rhode Island.

Ms. Collazo has also been preparing a ribbon-cutting ceremony for DPBV-RIMA. The Governor has asked to be included on the speaking agenda.

Mr. Allsop has been assisting in school facilities and support activities, such as reconfiguration of the Fatima facility and coordinating transportation concerns. Mr. Allsop has also been assisting on compliance issues with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health. He is also working on the school accountability reports. He will be providing information about school accountability at the regular meeting in October.

Mr. Magee is working with Public Impact, the Mayor, and a coalition of mayors assembled by the Mayor on the State's funding policy. He is also talking to school operators to encourage them to come invest in Rhode Island by opening schools. Talks with Dacia Toll of Achievement First, who has been engaging in substantive board-approved conversations, are pretty far along.

The Mayor and Mr. Magee have continued to examine the St. Patrick's school facility opportunity. A contractor and architect have been studying the facility to see if it is a viable option. The original cost projections seem to be holding up.

Mr. Andrew has signed the Memorandum of Understanding detailing the services Democracy Builders will be providing to DPBV-RIMA. The agreement must still be approved by the DPBV-RIMA board.

The staff and Mayor will be attending the National Association of Charter School Authorizers conference in Salt Lake City on October 19. Many charter school founders will be there as well as authorizers. Mayor McKee will be on a panel. The conference should also provide an opportunity to meet with charter school funders.

RIMA will be taking about half the second floor of this building (160 Westminster Street). Occupancy should be ready sometime between December 1 and January 1.

RIMA has received notification of a \$200,000 challenge grant from the Hassenfeld Foundation. At the same time, it appears that the Rhode Island Foundation board will approve a grant in half that amount. Alan Hassenfeld would like the challenge grant to be matched by the end of the calendar year. If any board members have suggestions how to approach raising the remaining \$100,000, Mr. Magee will be happy to hear them.

RIMA has been working with Deborah Gist on the state's application to the Race to the Top Fund in relation to having high-performing charter schools and human capital

development. She understands the importance of these components to the plan she is submitting, and they are aligned with her own priorities.

Democracy PrepSM Blackstone Valley, a Rhode Island Mayoral AcademySM

Mr. Chiappetta reported that the school was going well. A slide show of the open house and parent comments was presented.

Charter Public School Funding.

Mr. McKee pointed out that having a school funding “formula” was inadequate in the lack of funding. Instead, what is needed is a school funding policy. This may be the most important question in education in the state of Rhode Island. It affects the Race to the Top, the funds of which potentially benefit all of the public schools in the state.

HERE

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Wednesday 9 September 2009 at 4 pm in the offices of Moses & Afonso, Ltd., 160 Westminster Street, 4th floor. A motion to adjourn was approved on the following vote at 6:06 pm: AYE: Carter, McCulloch, West. NAY: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Waugh, Secretary

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